

REMARKS

Claims 3-12, 15, and 19-26 were pending prior to entry of this amendment. Claim 15 was allowed and claims 3, 5, 19, 21, and 24 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim. Claims 5, 12, 19, 21, and 23 are amended and claims 3 and 24 are canceled herein. Claims 4-12, 15, and 19-23, and 25-26 are pending upon entry of this amendment.

OBJECTIONS TO SPECIFICATION

The disclosure is objected to because page 13, lines 1-3 describe a reference that has not been provided on an Information Disclosure form and the Examiner requests a copy of the reference for consideration. Applicants are submitting a copy of the reference, Dan Gusfield's "Algorithm on Strings, Trees, and Sequences," under separate cover and request that the Examiner withdraw the objection once the reference is provided.

35 U.S.C. § 103(A) REJECTION

Claims 3-12 and 19-22 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hazleburst (U.S. Patent # 6,289,353 B1) in view of Muslea et al. (U.S. Patent # 6,606,625 B1).¹ The Examiner states that claims 3, 5, 19, 21, and 24 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Applicants have amended independent claims 12 and 23 to incorporate limitations of the dependent claims recognized by the Examiner as allowable. Amended claim 12 incorporates a

limitation previously recited by claim 3. Amended claim 23, in turn, incorporates a limitation previously recited by claim 24. Thus, Applicants respectfully submit that the pending claims are allowable over the cited art of record and request that the Examiner allow this case. The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned to advance the prosecution of this application.

Respectfully submitted,
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³ The rejection in the Office Action also states that claim 15 is rejected but this is apparently a typographical error.